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ASCS BACKGROUND INFORMATION



United States Department
of Agriculture

Agricultural Stabilization and
Conservation Service

BI No. 1

OCTOBER 1978

AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administers farm commodity and related resource conservation and environmental programs designed to:

- help assure farmers and ranchers a fair financial return from their operations;
- provide agricultural producers protection against severe declines in market prices;
- assist farmers and ranchers struck by natural disasters;
- assure consumers of an abundance of food and fiber;
- encourage price stability and reliable supply through a producer-owned and controlled food reserve;
- encourage production beyond domestic food, feed and fiber needs for servicing the export market and world relief programs;
- conserve and protect the Nation's agricultural resources through cost-sharing conservation measures with farmers and ranchers;
- maintains a state of readiness to carry out food and agricultural programs under wartime conditions.

ASCS is responsible for:

(1) Commodity support operations through

(a) loans to farmers;

(b) direct purchases of commodities from farmers and processors;

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- (c) production payments for wool and mohair, and
 - (d) payments, as required, for the 1978-81 crop years of wheat, feed grains, upland cotton, and rice, if open market prices fall below a support "target price" fixed by law for each commodity.
(See BI No. 5 -Loan, Purchase and Payment Programs.)
- (2) Administration of a farmer-owned Grain Reserve Program, authorized by the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 and effective March 1, 1978.
(See BI No. 5 -- Loan Purchase and Payment Programs.)
 - (3) Production adjustment to balance supply and demand for specified commodities, through cropland set-aside and other acreage diversion as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, and acreage allotments and marketing quotas, when applicable. (See BI No. 6 -- Production Adjustment Programs.)
 - (4) Management of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) inventories when acquired under commodity programs -- through sales, donations, storage, and related processing and shipping arrangements. (See BI No. 4 -- The Commodity Credit Corporation and Its Activities.)
 - (5) Disaster activities to augment feed supplies for farmers and ranchers in areas where natural disasters have reduced feed, and to provide emergency conservation assistance in restoring farmlands seriously damaged by flood, drought, or other natural disaster; and emergency preparedness activities to assist in planning for civil defense. (See BI NO. 7 -- Emergency Feed Program; BI No. 8 -- Emergency Conservation Program, and BI No. 9 -- ASCS Defense Activities.)
 - (6) Resource conservation and environmental protection assistance through cost-sharing with farmers and ranchers. (See BI No. 8 -- Emergency Conservation Program; BI No. 10 -- Agricultural Conservation Program; BI No. 11 -- Forestry Incentives Program, and BI No. 12 -- Water Bank Program.)

All programs administered by ASCS that deal directly with farmers are carried out through State, county, and community committees.
(See BI No. 3 -- Farmer Committee Administration of Agricultural Programs.)

ASCS provides personnel and facilities for various functions of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the governmental unit charged with financing agricultural price support, acreage set-aside, and related activities, including commodity acquisition, handling, storage and disposal operations. The agency also is responsible for certain administrative functions in support of the Office of the General Sales Manager (OGSM).

ORGANIZATION

ASCS maintains a headquarters office in Washington, D.C., 50 State offices, a Caribbean Area Office in Puerto Rico which also serves the Virgin Islands, 2,728 headquarters county offices and 105 county sub-offices (1978), the Kansas City (Mo.) Commodity Office with three branch offices (Houston; Portland, Ore.; and Minneapolis), the Management Field Office in Kansas City, and the Aerial Photography Field Office in Salt Lake City, Utah. (See BI No. 2 -- ASCS Field Office Operations.)

About 95 percent of ASCS employees are assigned to offices outside of Washington, D.C.

The agency is headed by an Administrator, an Associate Administrator, and three Deputy Administrators. Each of the Deputy Administrators has responsibility in a specified area of activity: State and county operations and commodity programs, commodity office operations and related activities, and management.

Reporting to the Office of the Administrator are the Executive Assistant to the Administrator, Assistants to the Administrator in specified areas of responsibility, the Analysis Staff, and the Civil Rights and EEO Staff.

The Analysis Staff plans, organizes, and conducts assigned economic and policy analyses of major problems involved in program administration. The staff also coordinates the preparation of regulatory impact statements analyzing the effects of program and administrative decisions on the economy, the budget, and on consumer interests.

The Civil Rights and EEO Staff is responsible for policy and program direction and coordination in the development and operation of the agency's civil rights and equal employment opportunity programs. The staff provides data on ASCS employment and program participation; evaluates programs for how they affect racial, national, and other minority groups; and handles discrimination complaints submitted by employees and program participants.

Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations (DASCO) directs and administers commodity activities for the following divisions: Production Adjustment, Price Support and Loan, Emergency and Indemnity Payments, and Conservation and Environmental Protection, and directs the activities assigned to the five Area offices and the Program Appeals Staff. DASCO also directs and approves policies and dockets prepared for CCC Board consideration; provides line management with respect to farm program actions, audits and investigations dealing with State and county offices, and line decisions affecting State and county personnel.

Responsibilities of the Divisions and offices under DASCO include development of policies, procedures, and regulations for the following programs and activities: farm commodity, acreage set-aside and other production adjustment, storage facility, grain reserve, CCC bin storage, emergency (natural disaster and defense related), dairy and beekeeper indemnity,

wool and mohair, and soil and water resource conservation; also, for handling appeals by producers concerning farm program provisions; for developing policies and preparing regulations relating to producer marketing cooperatives through which the CCC provides price support; for establishing and maintaining liaison with other Federal and State agencies and groups with similar interests, and correlating ASCS programs with other related programs; and for providing liaison on energy functions assigned to ASCS.

State and county offices serve ASCS in the field. The five Area offices (located in Washington, D.C.) serve as links between ASCS State offices and DASCO. The State and Caribbean Area offices report to the designated Area office:

<u>Northeast Area</u>	<u>Northwest Area</u>	<u>Midwest Area</u>	<u>Southeast Area</u>	<u>Southwest Area</u>
Connecticut	Alaska	Illinois	Alabama	Arizona
Delaware	Idaho	Indiana	Arkansas	California
Maine	Montana	Iowa	Florida	Colorado
Maryland	Nebraska	Minnesota	Georgia	Hawaii
Massachusetts	North Dakota	Missouri	Kentucky	Kansas
Michigan	Oregon	Ohio	Louisiana	Nevada
New Hampshire	South Dakota	Wisconsin	Mississippi	New Mexico
New Jersey	Washington		North Carolina	Oklahoma
New York	Wyoming		South Carolina	Texas
Pennsylvania			Tennessee	Utah
Rhode Island			Virginia	
Vermont			and	
West Virginia			Puerto Rico	

In each State office, a State Executive Director (SED), appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, supervises a staff of administrative and program specialists. Attached to the State office and reporting to the SED are District Directors, varying in number by State, who provide liaison with the State office for the counties in their districts. State offices usually are located in the State capital. The Caribbean Area office, located in San Juan, Puerto Rico, is headed by a director, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Six area managers, based in San Juan, service the Caribbean Area.

Day-to-day county office operations are supervised by a County Executive Director (CED), employed by the ASC county committee, who hires the necessary employees to staff the office.

ASC State, county, and community committees administer ASCS/CCC programs. State committee members are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. County committee members are elected by other farmers in the county, either directly or, more commonly, by community committees representing parts of a county whose members are directly elected by

farmers. There are no county offices or ASC committees in Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands. (See BI No. 3 -- Farmer Committee Administration of Agricultural Programs.)

Deputy Administrator, Commodity Operation (DACO) administers commodity activities for the Inventory Management, Procurement and Sales, and Producer Associations Divisions, and for the ASCS Kansas City Commodity Office.

The Divisions under DACO are responsible for developing policies, procedures, and regulations for the dairy, sugar, tobacco, peanut, and gum naval stores price support programs, and relating to the transportation, storage, handling, and disposition of CCC-owned commodities; for sales and sales compliance of tobacco and peanut stocks administered through approved producer associations, and for negotiating and carrying out such agreements; for developing policy recommendations concerning export and domestic commodity donations programs, and for establishing and maintaining liaison with concerned agricultural agencies and groups.

Deputy Administrator, Management (DAM) directs, administers, and formulates policies and programs for the following divisions and offices: Financial Management (Budget and Fiscal), Management Services, Personnel, Information, Aerial Photography Field Office, Management Field Office, and Technical Services Staff; provides support activities for all Washington divisions and offices, State and county offices, the Caribbean Area Office, the Kansas City Commodity Office, the Management Field Office, and the Aerial Photography Field Office. DAM is responsible also for certain administrative functions in support of the Office of the General Sales Manager (OGSM).

Areas of responsibility of the divisions and offices under DAM include the ASCS and CCC budgets, financial operations, personal and real property, space allocation, procurement, printing, communications, forms and records management, automated data processing activities, employment and employee relations, freedom of information and privacy of the individual, aerial photo liaison, management information systems, and public information programs.

The map is divided into four main regions, each with a distinct color and labeled with large, bold text:

- Northwest (Light Blue):** Includes Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Nevada. Major cities marked include Spokane, Portland, Boise, Reno, Salt Lake City, and Las Vegas.
- Southwest (Light Green):** Includes Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma. Major cities marked include Phoenix, Albuquerque, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston.
- Midwest (Light Orange):** Includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Major cities marked include Minneapolis, St. Paul, Chicago, Detroit, and Columbus.
- Southeast (Light Yellow):** Includes Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. Major cities marked include Atlanta, Jacksonville, and Miami.

A legend in the bottom right corner indicates that black dots represent "BSC State Offices".

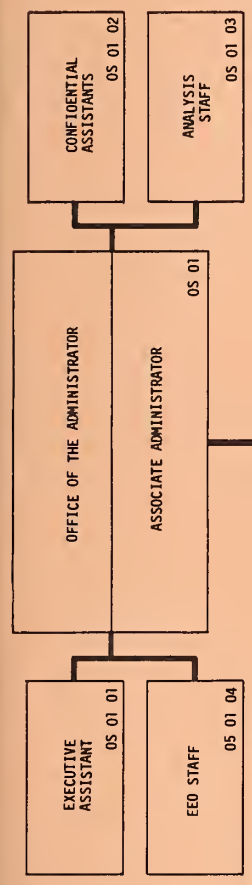
Caribbean Area Office reports to the Southeast
Area Director, State Office, San Juan, P.R.

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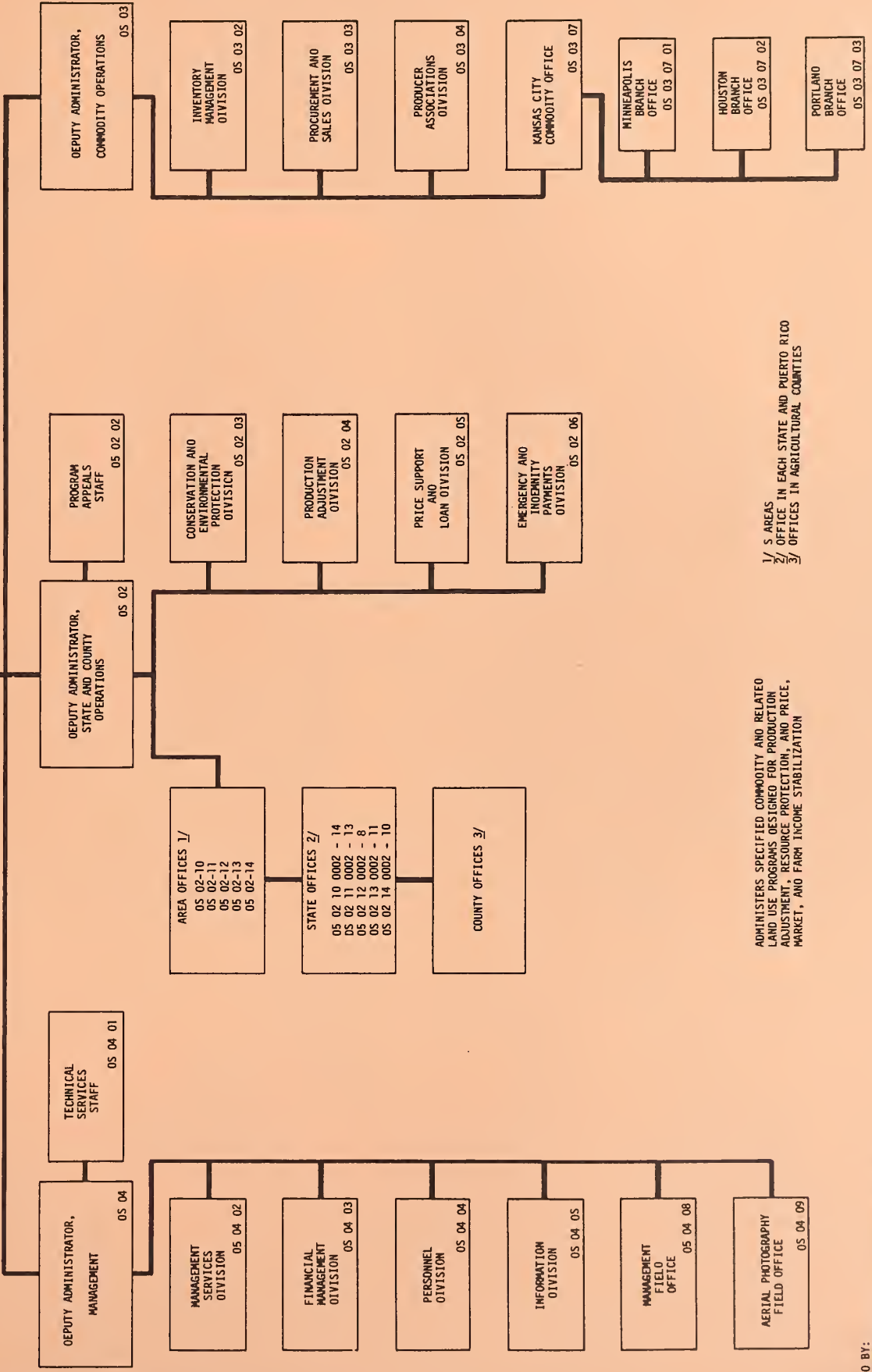
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DATE:



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE



ADMINISTERS SPECIFIED COMMODITY AND RELATED LAND USE PROGRAMS DESIGNED FOR PRODUCTION ADJUSTMENT, RESOURCE PROTECTION, AND PRICE, MARKET, AND FARM INCOME STABILIZATION

1/ S AREAS
2/ OFFICE IN EACH STATE AND PUERTO RICO
3/ OFFICES IN AGRICULTURAL COUNTIES

